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INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Richmond, Virginia

To: Distribution

Date: October 1, 1997

From: Elizabeth Chambers

Subject: Review of Testing Protocol for Massachusetts

A meeting was held on September 26, 1997 to review the testing and sampling protocol for Massachusetts. The following personnel were present: L. Chambers, J. Garman, B. Handy, F. Hsu, K. Podraza, J. Whidby, and V. Murphy (via telephone).

The following issues from Appendix 2 of the Massachusetts Tobacco Regulations were discussed:

A. Sampling and Conditioning

- The cigarette samples from Massachusetts will be conditioned according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 3402, "Tobacco and Tobacco Products – Atmosphere for Conditioning and Testing."
- Sampling, with samples collected at point of sale and at a single point in time with single point in time being two weeks according to ISO 8243, "Cigarette Sampling."
- Two packs from each location will be mailed to the Department of Health from the location of purchase to the attention of Gregory N. Connolly.
- We discussed that the 25 cigt./pack versions of Marlboro and Marlboro Lights may be difficult to find at all five retail stores. V. Murphy will check with the Section Operations Manager in Massachusetts for the availability of these products and will get back with us.

B. Total Nicotine Content

- Two cigarettes shall be randomly selected from each pack and conditioned under ISO conditions in the Product Testing Laboratory.
- PTL will perform a tobacco weight analysis on each brand. The resultant tobacco weight will be used to calculate nicotine in filler on a per cigarette basis.
- The tobacco rods will be split open in a conditioned area and placed within a container and taken to Analytical Research Division. ARD will mix the tobacco thoroughly before weighing.
- We discussed using a standards addition assay (ran in triplicate) per brand family such as full flavor, lights, medium and ultra lights rather than before each individual brand.

DOC CODE: PO622

PM3000376306

C. Percent Filter Tip Ventilation

- Personnel from Fidus will supply us with information regarding how similar our equipment is to the instrument specified in the Massachusetts Tobacco Regulations document.
- Testing for percent filter tip ventilation will be conducted on non-taped cigarettes.

D. Smoke pH Measurement

- PTL personnel will write up a formal procedure for this measurement.
- PTL will conduct a statistical evaluation to determine the number of replicates needed.

E. Modified FTC Testing Method

- The cigarettes will be equilibrated under ISO conditions and smoked under FTC conditions utilizing the following modified puff parameters: puff volume of 45ml (standard is 35ml) one puff each 30 seconds (standard is one puff each minute) and a 2 second puff duration (no change).
- PTL is conducting a study smoking 3 cigarettes per port versus 5 cigarettes per port to determine if the pad is being "overloaded" with TPM. A total of 100 cigarettes must be smoked for the modified testing method.
- Fifty percent of the ventilation holes must be blocked using Scotch Brand tape. PTL personnel will check with the machine shop to see if the tape can be cut using an extremely sharp blade. Based on time constraints for this year, we will use 12.7 mm tape which, in most brands, is a slightly larger width than the specified method states.
- We will contact personnel to assist us in designing a method to document that 50% of the ventilation holes are covered. Photographic evidence was proposed.